Ministry of Environment and the Environmental Assessment Office

2015/16 Annual Service Plan Report

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Minister's Message and Accountability Statement

I am pleased to present the *Ministry of Environment and the Environmental Assessment Office 2015/16 Annual Service Plan Report.*

The Ministry engaged in significant activity over the last fiscal year on three central pieces of BC's environmental protection legislation. Firstly, the new *Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act* and regulations came into force on Jan. 1, 2016, ensuring liquefied natural gas facilities in BC are the cleanest in the world.

The Ministry also conducted significant consultation and policy work on planned amendments to the *Environmental Management Act,* moving the Province closer to a legal foundation to establish a new, world-leading spill preparedness and response regime in BC. The proposed spills regime reflects over three years of engagement with industry, First Nations and local government.

The *Water Sustainability Act* came into force on February 29, 2016, ensuring we can respond to current and future pressures on our fresh water - including groundwater - and position our province as a leader in water stewardship. As part of government's phased approach to implementing the *Act*, four papers outlining proposed policies were released for public comment.

In order for these and other environmental protection laws to be effective, Ministry staff promote compliance through education and outreach and conduct inspections and audits. While particular attention was paid to the mining sector, Ministry staff continued to inspect a wide array of other sectors including wood processing, hazardous waste and agriculture. This past fiscal saw the imposition of the first administrative monetary penalties levied against companies for non-compliance with the *Environmental Management Act*.

The Environmental Assessment Office continues to realize major advancements in achieving a goal of "one project, one assessment." Since implementing a substituted assessment process with the federal government, a total of fourteen major projects in BC have been granted substitution status. Two projects, LNG Canada and Woodfibre LNG, completed the environmental assessment process within legislated timelines and received federal and provincial decisions in the 2015/16 fiscal year.

Lastly, I am pleased to note that November 4, 2015 marked Conservation Officer Day (COS) in BC, which celebrated the 110th anniversary of the COS. From humble beginnings in 1905, today's COS is a dynamic and evolving compliance and enforcement organization.

The *Ministry of Environment and the Environmental Assessment Office 2015/16 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the Ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the *2015/16 - 2017/18 Service Plan*. I am accountable for those results as reported.

Honourable Mary Polak
Minister of Environment

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Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Environment was created under the *Ministry of Environment Act* and is responsible for the effective protection, management and conservation of BC's water, land, air and living resources. Its expertise in science, research, and analysis are central to supporting all its responsibilities. Ministry legislation, regulation and public outreach activities ensure a healthy environment for British Columbians, sustainable economic development, and clear and predictable regulations for the public and business community. The Ministry strives to ensure that all British Columbians will continue to benefit from the effective and prudent management of natural resources, allowing future generations to enjoy a safe and healthy environment.

Strategic Direction and Context

The Ministry of Environment continues to operate within fiscal constraints while delivering critical services to protect the environment, human health and public safety. With the responsibility of environmental protection comes the opportunity to sustainably develop natural resources such as liquefied natural gas, mining and forestry.

To that end, the Ministry began preparing amendments to the *Environmental Management Act* in the fall of 2015 that set a framework for a world leading spill response system in BC. British Columbians have to have confidence that when a spill to the environment occurs an effective response will always be available and paid for by the responsible party.

Global momentum for climate action has grown following the historic agreement made in Paris in December 2015. Other nations are now looking to BC for successful initiatives like the revenue neutral carbon tax, which demonstrates that greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced while growing the economy. BC is continuing to share its years of climate leadership by contributing to the new Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change.

Conservation of the wide variety of living species in BC remains a high priority for the Ministry. Over 200 species native to BC are currently listed under the federal *Species at Risk Act*. The Ministry completed fifteen recovery plans for a wide variety of species in 2015/16, bringing the total number of BC led or co-led plans to over 200.

Aquatic invasive species, most notably quagga and zebra mussels, pose a serious threat to BC's aquatic ecosystems, salmon populations, hydro power stations and other infrastructure facilities. The economic impact of invasive mussels has been estimated to be $43 million per year, and so preventing their establishment in BC waterways is both an environmental and economic imperative. In March 2016 the Ministry announced a $2 million annual program to establish eight permanent mussel inspection stations at major entry points along BC's borders through funding support from BC Hydro, FortisBC, Columbia Power and the Columbia Basin Trust.

BC's iconic parks form the foundation of *Super, Natural British Columbia*. Park visitors bring significant economic benefit and development to surrounding communities, contributing $279 million to the provincial GDP every year. More and more we a.e seeing the world associate BC with the natural splendour we enjoy right in our own backyard. Visitors from outside of BC made up more than one-quarter of a record number of camping reservations in 2015.

Report on Performance

All Ministers, as members of the BC Executive Council (Provincial Cabinet), are provided letters from the Premier outlining their key responsibilities. The Minister of Environment's mandate letter can be reviewed on the government website. A summary report on how the Ministry met its commitments in the June 10, 2014 letter can be found in Appendix D.

In addition to responding to the specific direction outlined in the mandate letter, this annual service plan report illustrates the ways in which the Ministry is supporting the *Taxpayer Accountability Principles (TAP)*, the Government's *Canada Starts Here: BC Jobs Plan* and the *Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan (2014/15-2017/18)*.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

Goal 1: Effective, long-term action on climate change

Objective 1.1: Maintain BC's global leadership on climate change

BC is a world leader in efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for climate change. These efforts are aiding in the growth of BC's green, clean technology economy. Businesses that can operate with as few environmental impacts as possible will be best positioned as the world economy shifts to low carbon alternatives.

Strategies

The Ministry leads these efforts by:

- Coordinating cross-government policy work that supports communities, families, businesses, and local governments to save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Encouraging other jurisdictions to follow BC's leadership in establishing effective policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Strengthening BC's carbon neutral government performance with an increased emphasis on public sector greenhouse gas emissions reductions and investing in strategic carbon offsets; and
- Supporting competitiveness of BC business and industry through continued development of market mechanisms – such as the Carbon Tax – and ongoing work to align regulatory programs across Canada.

Reduction targets for BC are among the most ambitious in the world. To assess the success of its efforts, the Ministry reports on provincial greenhouse gas emissions on an annual basis, and reports on progress to targets bi-annually.

Performance Measure 1: Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

Performance Measure	2007[2] Baseline	2014 Actual	2015 Target	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2017 Target
Annual level of greenhouse gas emissions in British Columbia relative to 2007 levels[1]	66.3 megatonnes	DATA NOT AVAILABLE[3]	18% reduction by 2016 (54.4 megatonnes)	DATA NOT AVAILABLE[4]	18% reduction by 2016 (54.4 megatonnes)	33% reduction by 2020 (44.4 megatonnes)

Data Source: Ministry of Environment

[1] Targets shown in this table reflect the targets for 2016 and 2020 set under the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act*.

[2] Data analyzed by calendar year.

[3] Data for the 2014 calendar year was not available at the time of publication. The 2014 data will be published in conjunction with the 2016 Climate Leadership Plan.

[4] Data for the 2015 calendar year will be available in 2017.

Discussion

Using 2007 as a baseline reference year, the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act* establishes BC's target of reducing annual greenhouse gas emissions by 33 percent and 80 percent by 2020 and 2050, respectively. Greenhouse gases are measured in units of tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. Emissions estimates for 2007 and later years can be expected to differ slightly with the release of each inventory report due to refined calculation methods. Data for 2015 was not available at publication, and will be released in the *2016/17 Ministry of Environment and the Environmental Assessment Office Annual Service Plan Report*.

Objective 1.2: Effective management of the risks associated with a changing climate

Strategies

The Ministry leads efforts to improve the capacity of decision-makers in government and civil society to manage the risks that climate change poses to BC by

- Evaluating the potential financial and human risk from climate change and identifying options to reduce risk to acceptable levels;
- Collaborating with partners throughout BC to develop and disseminate effective risk management approaches; and,
- Reviewing, updating and implementing legislation, policies and programs to ensure that BC is prepared for and resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Performance Measure 2: Review all core BC Government activities to determine if existing objectives can be met in a changing climate

Performance Measure	2012/13 Baseline	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Completion of sector based policy, strategy, or operational reviews for climate sensitive business areas[1]	2	5	5	5 ACHIEVED	6	N/A[2]

Data Source: Ministry of Environment, manually compiled.

[1] Targets are cumulative.

[2] The project underlying this performance measure will complete in 2016/17.

Discussion

Government's adaptation strategy recognizes the importance of working with stakeholders in climate sensitive sectors such as natural resources, health care, agriculture, tourism and transportation in order to assess risk and prioritize actions to reduce adverse impacts from climate change. In 2015/16, the Ministry of Environment worked with the Ministry of Health and Health Canada to lay the foundation for a climate change and health vulnerability, adaptation, and capacity assessment for the Province of British Columbia. This preparatory work complements earlier initiatives which include a climate change risk and opportunity assessment for the agricultural sector, a forestry sector climate adaptation action plan, an assessment of the vulnerability of highway infrastructure to climate change, policy assessments for the mining sector and coastal flooding, and a northeastern BC climate risk assessment for the oil and gas sector.

Goal 2: Clean and safe water, land and air

Objective 2.1: Enhanced protection and stewardship of water resources

Water is BC's most precious resource. The *Water Sustainability Act* replaced legislation that was more than 100 years old. It modernized BC's water laws, introduced groundwater regulation and strengthened environmental protection. It responded to growing demands for water and a changing climate by establishing rules that ensure BC's supply of clean fresh water is sustainable – to meet the needs today and for generations to come. This important legislation has created certainty for water users regarding rights while responding to the needs of local and regional interests.

Strategies

In recognition of the critical importance of BC's streams, aquatic environments, surface and groundwater resources, the Ministry manages monitoring programs to assess water quality throughout the province. Detailed information on water and other natural resources are reported out regularly through DataBC, the Province's open data web portal.

Objective 2.2: Reduced contamination from toxins and waste

Human activity can lead to environmental contamination from toxins and waste. In those instances where discharges do occur or hazardous materials are used, the Ministry works to minimize impacts to the environment. The Ministry's role is as important as ever: without effective mitigation, expected population growth and increased economic activity could increase contamination.

Strategies

Ministry work in this area includes:

- Regulation of liquid waste discharges (sewage and industrial waste);
- Requiring that local governments have solid waste management plans, and promoting recycling, including organics recycling, and general waste prevention; and
- Working with industry to develop and implement mandatory product stewardship programs that require industry to manage the full life cycle of the materials that go into products.

Performance Measure 3: Completion of the *Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility*

Performance Measure	2011/12 Baseline	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Percentage of product sub-categories[1] in the Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility fully covered by industry-led recycling programs in British Columbia	53%	79%	84%	79% NOT ACHIEVED	N/A	N/A

Data Source: Ministry of Environment, manually compiled.

[1] The Canada-wide Action Plan places a number of products into different categories. The Ministry divides these categories into sub-categories. This is done because some product categories include a large number of products and require multiple industry-led stewardship programs in order to attain complete coverage. For example, packaging is a category which the Ministry divides into two subcategories: beverage containers; and packaging and printed paper.

Discussion

BC's industry-led product stewardship programs require producers of designated products to take Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for the life cycle management of their products. BC has 22 operational EPR programs, the most of any Canadian jurisdiction, covering 79 percent (15 of 19) of the product sub-categories identified in the Canada-wide Action Plan for EPR, with the most recent program for packaging and printed paper implemented in May 2014. More information on BC's approach to product stewardship and a complete list of products with industry-led stewardship programs can be found on the Ministry of Environment's product stewardship website.

The Ministry did not meet its 2015/16 target of 84% because it is continuing to work with the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment to explore which materials and products in the Canada-wide Action Plan for EPR are better suited to EPR and could be added to the Recycling Regulation in the future. The Ministry is currently focused on continuous improvement of the EPR model and the programs that already exist in the province. BC is a leader in creating industry-led EPR

programs, and currently operates more programs than any other jurisdiction in North America. This performance measure will not be tracked beyond 2015/16.

Performance Measure 4: Municipal solid and organic waste disposal

Performance Measure	2012/13 Baseline	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Per capita municipal solid waste disposal (kg per person)	570	520	500	DATA NOT AVAILABLE[1]	450	400
Per cent of population covered by an organic waste disposal ban	5%	66%	66%	66% ACHIEVED	68%	70%

Data Source: BC Waste Disposal Calculator and manually compiled regional district data.

[1] Per capita disposal rate data from regional districts for 2015 was not available at publication, and will be published in the *2016/17 Ministry of Environment and the Environmental Assessment Office Annual Service Plan Report*.

Discussion

Municipal solid waste comes from residential, commercial, institutional, demolition, land clearing and construction sources. The per capita disposal rate estimates how much waste each person sends to landfills for disposal (i.e. neither reused nor recycled) in a given year. Although data for 2015/16 was not available at publication, data from past years suggest the Ministry is on track to meet its targets. For example, data reported by regional districts to the BC Waste Disposal Calculator shows the 2014/15 provincial municipal solid waste disposal rate was 520 kilograms per person, which is below the previous fiscal year's reported disposal rate of 535 kilograms per person.

Organic waste represents up to 40 percent of all waste currently sent to landfills for disposal. In 2013/14 only 5 percent of the population was covered by an organic waste disposal ban. With the implementation of bans by Metro Vancouver and the Capital Regional District in 2015, the rate increased to 66 percent, meeting the projected target for both 2014/15 and 2015/16 fiscal years.

Performance Measure 5: Clean technology standards for industry

Performance Measure	2008/09 Baseline	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Number of environmental discharge tools (standards, guidelines or objectives) incorporating current best achievable technology practices	3	9	10	10 ACHIEVED	11	12

Data Source: Ministry of Environment, corresponding policy, guideline, code of practice, or regulation
Note: Target figures are cumulative.

Discussion

Technical Guidance 7: Assessing the Design, Size and Operation of Sediment Ponds Used in Mining was finalized in December 2015. The guidance document provides technical detail on the background,

considerations and methodology of sediment pond design, so as to reduce the sediment load to the environment at mines. Guidance is also provided on best practices for operation of the ponds.

Objective 2.3: Enhanced protection and stewardship of our air

The Ministry regulates contaminant air emissions from industry, transportation, and urban growth.

Strategies

Ministry work in this area includes:

- Promoting clean technology standards for industrial air emissions;
- Establishing air quality objectives for BC's regions;
- Working with other governments to establish a national air quality management system; and
- Monitoring air quality impacts from the natural resource development, including oil and gas, in the northeast.

Air quality research is another example of how the Ministry promotes sustainable economic development in BC. The Kitimat and Prince Rupert airshed studies are informing the type of additional development that is possible without stressing the airsheds. These studies are critical to economic growth; they provide a clear understanding of where new industrial facilities can be built while continuing to protect BC's air quality.

Lastly, by working to encourage the use of clean technologies and supporting the establishment of effective air emissions standards, the Ministry will reduce air pollution in BC. Like much of the Ministry's work in other areas, its efforts to promote environmental protection also strengthen the economy; in this specific case, by creating the right incentives for BC's clean technology sector to grow.

Objective 2.4: Effective management of environmental risks

The Ministry minimizes environmental risks and mitigates the impacts of environmental emergencies. The first priority is prevention, but when there are incidents of pollution, spills or other environmental accidents, the Ministry of Environment is prepared to act. The Ministry is overseeing all work being undertaken as a result of the August 14, 2014 Mount Polley tailings pond breach to ensure a long-term environmental monitoring program is in place and all appropriate action is being taken to recover from the damage done. The Province is holding the mining company responsible for all costs associated with these activities, including clean-up, remediation and site restoration.

Strategies

Across all business areas, the Ministry anticipates, responds to and manages the consequences of risks to the environment, as well as risks to public safety involving human wildlife conflict. The Ministry develops new policies or regulations to respond to changing conditions (e.g. world-leading spill response policy development). It establishes frameworks to determine where action is most critical (e.g. managing remediation of high-risk contaminated sites). The Ministry continuously assesses its compliance approaches to ensure its enforcement of environmental laws is cutting edge.

The Province has put a significant emphasis on ensuring responsible resource development. As part of this goal, the Ministry is working toward defining world-leading spill response requirements for the province before accepting the transportation of additional heavy-oil through BC and along its coast. This is one of the conditions in the Province's *Five Requirements for British Columbia to Consider Support for Heavy Oil Pipelines*. Work is under way to develop new provincial policies, collaborate with the federal government in areas under its jurisdiction, and review major heavy oil pipeline proposals to ensure world-leading prevention and spill response is included.

Sustainable environmental management practices protect the environment while reducing costs through the efficient use of resources and energy. In most cases individuals and businesses are keen participants and leaders in environmental protection because they see savings and recognize it as the right thing to do. There are instances where this is not the case. In those cases, the Ministry actively investigates possible non-compliance with standards and regulations. In addition to charges and possible penalties, organizations and individuals in non-compliance are publicly reported in the Ministry's *Quarterly Environmental Enforcement Summaries*.

Goal 3: Healthy and diverse native species and ecosystems

Objective 3.1: Well-managed and publicly available information is used to conserve, maintain and enhance native species and ecosystems

The Ministry acquires and manages data and information on species and ecosystems and makes it publicly available through the BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer. This data is used to assess the conservation status of plants, animals and ecosystems. Based on this data, priorities are then set for protecting and restoring the environment. Generally, the data is used to support science and policy development across government, land and resource management, and expanding shared environmental knowledge and stewardship in BC.

Strategies

The Ministry uses its expertise to contribute to environmental stewardship by:

- Facilitating community initiatives to protect and restore native species and ecosystems;
- Implementing research programs that support conservation;
- Developing species at risk programs, strategies and recovery plans (e.g. work on the boreal caribou population and promoting a streamlined federal *Species at Risk Act*);
- Collaborating with partners to prevent the spread of invasive species; and,
- Supporting the government's Cumulative Effects Framework and Environmental Mitigation and Offsetting Policy, which provide opportunities for government and industry to first consider where development is most appropriate, and then reduce the impacts of those developments that do go forward.

Ultimately, environmental stewardship is a shared responsibility for all British Columbians, and the Ministry encourages and supports the critical conservation efforts delivered by the public, local communities and other stakeholders.

The expertise contained within the Ministry is essential to economic development, particularly to the natural resources sector, where industrial activity can have direct impacts on species and ecosystems. By outlining conservation priorities and opportunities for industry to reduce its footprint the government is setting consistent and well defined boundaries for where and which industrial activity can take place. This certainty is the result of the important balance that exists in BC between ensuring environmental protection while promoting sustainable economic development.

Objective 3.2: Protect and manage natural values in BC's parks and protected areas while optimizing outdoor recreation and economic opportunities

BC has one of the largest park systems in North America and largest provincial/territorial systems in Canada, protecting over 14 per cent of the province. BC Parks provides families and visitors with a variety of unique outdoor opportunities in the form of recreation, camping, marine and freshwater angling, hunting and wildlife viewing. Engaging in these activities provides British Columbians with accessible opportunities to appreciate nature while protecting natural assets and supporting local economies.

Strategies

The Ministry collaborates with First Nations and communities in protected area planning and management to protect natural, cultural, and recreational assets. BC's parks are managed using contracted service providers – called Park Facility Operators – to deliver cost effective outdoor opportunities and high quality park experiences for visitors across BC.

To strengthen its parks and protected areas system, the Ministry promotes volunteer, sponsorship, partnership and donation opportunities. It also works closely with partners, communities, and First Nations to optimize stewardship, recreational pursuits, and local economic opportunities.

Performance Measure 6: Park visitation

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Number of recorded park visits	21.3 million	21.4 million	21.0 million	23.4 million ACHIEVED	22.3 million	22.6 million

Data Source: Ministry of Environment, BC Parks Attendance and Revenue System.

Discussion

The number of visitors to provincial parks is used to measure the contribution of parks to the government's priorities of promoting healthy communities, and creating a strong tourism sector. Estimates show the number of park visits in 2015/16 will exceed the target of 21.0 million by 2.3 million visitors. It was an excellent year for weather, which in large part drove the increase in both camping and day use visits.

Targets for 2016 through 2019 were adjusted upwards in the *2016/17-2018/19 Ministry of Environment and Environmental Assessment Office Service Plan* to better reflect recent trends in park visitation.

Goal 4: British Columbians share responsibility for the environment and the sustainable use of natural resources

Objective 4.1: British Columbians are engaged in environmental stewardship initiatives and are provided with the information they need to make sound environmental choices

Shared stewardship counts on British Columbians continuing to make meaningful changes in their lives to minimize environmental impacts. It requires partnerships with First Nations, industry, communities, environmental groups and other governments because the need to make positive changes exists in all areas of our lives, not only in those aspects in which the Ministry directly operates.

Strategies

The Ministry works with communities to deliver Bear Smart, a program that is a clear example of shared environmental responsibility. It works with stewardship organizations to promote outdoor activities that foster a connection to the natural environment. And it also helps British Columbians make smart choices for the environment by providing timely, easily accessible online information and scientific data on the state of the environment, including @LiveSmartBCca, @EnvReportBC, Environmental Reporting BC, BCAirQuality ca and LivingWaterSmart.ca.

Objective 4.2: Sustainable use of British Columbia's environmental resources

The Province is committed to the sustainable development of natural resource industries, including mining, oil, and natural gas development.

Strategies

The Ministry seeks to ensure all British Columbians will continue to benefit from the wise and prudent management of natural resources, which are crucial to the health and sustainability of our environment. In addition to the work outlined above, the Ministry operates hydrometric and air monitoring networks to obtain information to support water and airshed management, and it interprets and shares enviromental science and information with the public. This work is critical because it provides British Columbians and the natural resource sector with ongoing data that can be used to help interpret the state of the province's environmental health.

The Ministry also supports communities engaged in multi-stakeholder air and water management, fosters collaborative approaches to sustainable natural resource management, and protects the province's natural resources from damaging and fraudulent activities.

Financial Report

Financial Report Summary Table

	2015/16 Estimated	Other Authorizations	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses ($000)					
Environmental Protection	8,356	6,852	15,208	14,925	283
Environmental Sustainability	20,143	0	20,143	19,605	538
BC Parks	31,089	0	31,089	31,055	34
Conservation Officer Services	15,221	300	15,521	16,257	(736)
Climate Action	19,307	1,372	20,679	20,034	645
Executive and Support Services	24,006	0	24,006	24,770	(764)
Park Enhancement Fund	1,800	374	2,174	2,174	0
Sustainable Environment Fund	18,935	0	18,935	18,935	0
Sub-Total	**138,857**	**8,898**	**147,755**	**147,755**	**0**
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual [1]	0	0	0	(310)	310
Total	**138,857**	**8,898**	**147,755**	**147,445**	**310**
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000)					
Executive and Support Services	20,438		20,438	20,100	328
Park Enhancement Fund	400	0	400	140	260
Total	**20,838**	**0**	**20,838**	**20,250**	**588**

Other Financing Transactions ($000)					
Climate Action: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Offsets (Purchase)					
Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Disbursements	13,000	0	13,000	12,666	334
Net Cash Source (Requirements)	13,000	0	13,000	12,666	334
Total Receipts	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Total Disbursements	**13,000**	**0**	**13,000**	**12,666**	**334**
Total Net Cash Source (Requirements)	**13,000**	**0**	**13,000**	**12,666**	**334**

[1]The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of $0.310 million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

Appendix A: Contact Information and Hyperlinks

Ministry of Environment Contact Information

Headquarters
Victoria
Telephone: 250 387-9955
Fax: 250 387-8897
Website: www.gov.bc.ca/env/
Additional contact information can be found at www.gov.bc.ca/env/contacts.html

Regional Offices

Coast Region

West Coast

Nanaimo Office:
Telephone: 250 751-3100
Fax: 250 751-3103
Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/van-island/
Other offices: Black Creek, Duncan, Goldstream Park, Queen Charlotte City, Parksville, Port Alberni, Port Hardy, Ucluelet

South Coast

Surrey Office:
Telephone: 604 582-5200
Fax: 604 930-7119
Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/lower-mainland/
Other offices: Brackendale (Squamish), Cultus Lake, Maple Ridge, North Vancouver, Sechelt, Powell River

Southern Interior Region

Cariboo/Thompson

Kamloops Office:
Telephone: 250 371-6200
Fax: 250 828-4000
Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/thompson/

Williams Lake Office:
Telephone: 250 398-4530
Fax: 250 398-4214
Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/cariboo/
Other offices: Clearwater, Lillooet, Merritt, Kelowna, Oliver, Princeton, Vernon, 100 Mile House, Quesnel

Kootenay/Okanagan

Nelson Office:
Telephone: 250 354-6333
Fax: 250 354-6332
Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/kootenay/
Other offices: Castlegar, Creston/West Creston, Fernie, Grand Forks, Invermere, Golden, Revelstoke

Penticton Office:
Telephone: 250 490-8200
Fax: 250 490-2231
Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/okanagan/

Cranbrook Office:
Telephone: 250 489-8540
Fax: 250 489-8506

Northern Region

Skeena

Smithers Office:
Telephone: 250 847-7260
Fax: 250 847-7591
Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/skeena/
Other offices: Atlin, Burns Lake, Dease Lake, Terrace/Lakelse Lake

Omineca

Environmental Protection Division
Conservation Officer Service
Prince George Office:
Telephone: 250 565-6135
Fax: 250 565-6629

Environmental Sustainability
Parks and Protected Areas Division
Prince George Office:
Telephone: 250 565-6135
Fax: 250 565-6940

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/omineca/
Other offices: Vanderhoof, Mackenzie, Mount Robson, Fort St. James

Peace

Fort St. John Office:
Telephone: 250 787-3411
Fax: 250 787-3490

Water Stewardship Division:
Phone: 250 565-6135
Fax: 250 565-6629

Website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/peace/
Other offices: Chetwynd/Moberly Lake Park, Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson/Liard Hotsprings

Report all Poachers and Polluters
Telephone: Dial Toll-Free 1-877-952-7277
Website: http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/rapp/form.htm

Environmental Assessment Office Contact Information

836 Yates Street
PO Box 9426 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9V1
Email: eaoinfo@gov.bc.ca
Website: www.eao.gov.bc.ca
Additional contact information can be found at http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/contact_us.html

Appendix B: List of Crowns, Agencies, Boards and Commissions

No applicable crowns, agencies, boards, or commissions.

Appendix C: Significant Independent or Semi-Independent Offices or Operating Segments (Environmental Assessment Office)

Purpose of the Environmental Assessment Office

The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) neutrally administers the process of assessing proposed major projects for potentially significant adverse environmental, social, economic, health and heritage effects. The EAO seeks to meaningfully engage the public and Aboriginal groups in the Environmental Assessment (EA) process and is responsible for overseeing compliance and enforcement of reviewable projects throughout the life of the project.

Strategic Direction and Context

The EAO continued to monitor the progress of and to participate in the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion environmental review with the National Energy Board (NEB), as called upon by the Premier in her 2014 mandate letter to the Minister of Environment. As required by a 2016 British Columbia Supreme Court decision, the EAO has also established a process to assess and ensure that certificate decisions are made for projects undertaken under the aegis of the EAO's Equivalency Agreement with the NEB, including the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project.

In 2015/16, the EAO considered eight applications for Environmental Assessment Certificates (EAC) as well as other decisions under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act). A total of seven projects were granted EACs. Two exemptions from certificate requirements were granted and eleven amendments to existing EACs were completed.

The EAO continues to realize major advancements in coordinating EAs with the federal government, building upon the 2013 substitution agreement with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA). On January 27, 2016, the federal government announced a review of its EA process. The demonstrated success that Canada and BC have had in implementing substitution will provide the federal government a strong foundation for its review.

Report on Performance

The EAO is currently reviewing 26 applications for an EAC, representing over $85 billion in potential capital investment to BC's economy.

In 2015/16, a total of seven projects received a certificate decision from ministers. In addition to the certificate decisions set out in Table 1, on July 7, 2015, ministers ordered that the Morrison Copper Gold Mine must undergo further assessment.

Table 1: Assessments completed in the fiscal year of 2015/16

Project Name	Sector	CEAA Coordinated EA[1]	Certificate Date	Potential Capital Investment ($M)
Garibaldi at Squamish	Tourist Destination Resorts	No	January 29, 2016	2,900
Terminal A Extension Project	Transportation	No	December 17, 2015	321
James White Park Well	Energy	No	November 4, 2015	30
Woodfibre LNG	Energy	Yes	October 26, 2015	1,600
Murray River Coal	Mining	No	October 01, 2015	300
Fording River Operation Swift	Mining	No	September 10, 2015	12.5
LNG Canada	Energy	Yes	June 17, 2015	15,000
SUM – Potential Capital Investment for projects assessed in 2015/16($M)				**20,163.5**

In addition, EAO granted an exemption from certificate requirements to two projects, and amended the certificates of eleven certified projects (Table 2).

[1] In some cases, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency reviews proposed projects that are also undergoing review by the EAO. More information is provided in the section of this report entitled "*Coordination with the federal government*".

Table 2: Exemptions granted and amendments completed in the fiscal year of 2015/16

Project Name	Sector	Transaction	Date
Narrows Inlet Hydro	Energy	Amendment to Certificate	February 2016
Saturn 15-27 Sweetgas Plant	Energy	Exemption Order	July 2015
Big Silver Creek	Energy	Amendment to Certificate	October 2015
Upper Lillooet Hydroelectric	Energy	Amendment to Certificate	November 2015
Upper Toba Valley Hydroelectric	Energy	Amendment to Certificate	November 2015
Peace Valley OSB	Industrial	Amendment to Certificate	May 2015
Brucejack Gold Mine	Mine	Amendment to Certiricate	March 2016
Kemess South	Mine	Amendment to Certiricate	October 2015
Pacific Trails Pipeline	Pipeline	Amendment to Certificate	March 2016
Prince Rupert Gas Transmission	Pipeline	Amendment to Certificate	December 2015
Campbell River Water Supply Project	Water Management	Exemption Order	February 2016
Bevan Avenue Groundwater Supply Project	Water Management	Amendment to Certificate	March 2016
Chemainus Wells Water Supply Project	Water Management	Amendment to Certificate	August 2015

Coordination with the federal government

The *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, enacted in 2012 (CEAA 2012), provides authority to the federal Minister of the Environment to approve, in cases where both a federal and provincial EA process is required, the substitution of the provincial process for the federal one. Substitution occurs when requested by a province and deemed appropriate by the federal minister. Under the current model of substitution, two separate decisions (provincial and federal) arise from one, provincial EA process.

A 2013 Memorandum of Understanding between Canada and BC sets out the administrative framework for requesting a substituted EA process, and for facilitating implementation of

CEAA 2012 substitution provisions in an efficient and timely fashion. It outlines the delegation of the procedural aspects of the federal government's duty to consult with First Nations to the Province, and the contribution of relevant expertise by federal agencies to an EA process.

The EAO has continued to realize major advancements in coordination with the federal government since implementing substitution. Since 2013, a total of fourteen projects have been granted substitution status, and two - LNG Canada and Woodfibre LNG - have completed the EA process, both receiving federal and provincial decisions in the 2015/16 fiscal year.

In the 2015/16 fiscal year, Canada approved the substitution request for one BC project, the WestPac Tilbury Marine Jetty Project.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

Goal 1: Conducting transparent and efficient environmental assessments

The EAO works to ensure potentially adverse environmental, social, economic, health and heritage effects of proposed projects are identified, and if projects do proceed, are either avoided or mitigated. The EA process involves working closely with proponents, government agencies (including local governments), and seeking meaningfully engagement with aboriginal groups, seeking public input to inform decisions, engaging government agencies (including local governments) on technical and other matters, and working with proponents to ensure a transparent, clear and efficient assessment.

Objective 1.1: Build upon a strong legislative framework

BC has had EA legislation with a dedicated office since 1995. EAO neutrally administers a legally defined process that is predictable, transparent, timely, procedurally fair and holds all participants accountable.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective include:

- Appropriately scoping project reviews and instituting a project management discipline in EAs to adhere to the legislated 180-day application review period;
- Collaborating with other provincial agencies to improve serve to clients and reducing overlap and duplication with other federal and provincial regulators;
- Identifying policy and practice options to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the EA process; and
- Modernizing services, including designing, building and implementing electronic collaboration tools to improve the efficiency and transparency of the EA process.

Performance Measure 1: Application reviews in the BC environmental assessment process are completed within 180-days

Performance Measure	2013/2014 Actual	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Percentage of application reviews completed within 180-days BC process only	100%	100%	100%	86 % NOT ACHIEVED	100%	100%
Joint BC/Canada Process	N/A	100%	100%	100% ACHIEVED	100%	100%

Data Source: Environmental Assessment Office Staff, manually compiled.

Discussion

The legislative timelines in the Act include a 180-day limit for the EAO to review applications for EACs. This timeline offers certainty and supports timely planning for the public, government, First Nations, proponents, and other potentially affected parties. Once a proponent's project application is accepted for review, the EAO strives to complete the EA within the 180-day time limit. However, the 180-day period may be suspended or extended for various reasons, including allowing additional time for proponents to gather necessary information required for the assessment.

Of the seven project applications that were referred to ministers for decisions during the 2015/16 fiscal year, the review for one, Woodfibre LNG, was suspended to allow the proponent additional time to review First Nation conditions, and submit a report to the EAO in fulfillment of requirements with respect to Aboriginal interests. Once the suspension was lifted and the project review resumed, the assessment of Woodfibre LNG's application was completed within the 180-day time limit.

The Act also allows for the extension of prescribed time limits, including that for reviewing a project application. In 2015/16, the review of one project application, Murray River Coal, was granted two extensions to allow the proponent to collect and analyze samples required for the environmental assessment, and for the findings to be reviewed by stakeholders and incorporated into the EAO Assessment Report. In total, the Murray River Coal application review took a total of 258 days to complete.

Also completed and referred to the ministers for a decision during the 2015/16 fiscal year was the Garibaldi at Squamish project review. This review had previously been subject to an order under s. 17 (3) (c) (iii) of the Act, a provision which authorizes the ministers to order further assessment of a proposed project.

Of the seven application reviews completed by the EAO in 2015/16, there was one - Murray River Coal - not officially completed within the 180-day time limit.

Objective 1.2: Ensure the effectiveness of environmental assessments

Continuously improving effectiveness and efficiency is key to maintaining the integrity of BC's EA process.

Strategies

Two key strategies for this objective include ongoing implementation of:

- A quality assurance program that ensures continuous improvement of the EA process;
- A compliance and enforcement program to ensure projects comply with certificate requirements.

Performance Measure 2: Compliance inspections completed on certified projects

Performance Measure	Baseline 2012/13	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Number of compliance inspections completed on certified projects	17	27	23	25 ACHIEVED	25	27

Data Source: Environmental Assessment Office, manually compiled

Discussion

EAO Compliance and Enforcement (C&E) Officers work closely with other agencies to ensure effective coordination of oversight of EA certificate and permitting requirements. Through the Natural Resource Sector Aboriginal Liaison Program, EAO provides opportunities for Aboriginal groups to collaborate in compliance oversight, which may include opportunities for training, participation in inspections, and input into compliance priorities.

EAO C&E undertakes various compliance oversight activities, including field inspections, administrative inspections, reviews of complaints, investigations and compliance promotion. Inspections by EAO C&E Officers are key to promoting compliance. In cases of non-compliance, C&E determines the appropriate enforcement, which may include warnings, orders to cease, orders to remedy, compliance agreements, and other measures consistent with EAO C&E Policy. The EAO relies upon information gained from inspections when developing requirements for newly proposed projects, and striving to continuously improve EACs.

Financial Report Summary Table

	2015/16 Estimated	Other Authorizations	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses ($000)					
Environmental Assessment Office	11,610	0	11,610	11,396	214
Sub-Total	**11,610**	**0**	**11,610**	**11,396**	**214**
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**11,610**	**0**	**11,610**	**11,396**	**214**

Appendix D – Minister's Mandate and Actions Summary

In the Premier's annual *Mandate Letter to the Minister* dated June 10, 2014, the Minister of Environment received direction on strategic priorities for the 2015/16 fiscal year. These priorities and the ministry's resulting actions are summarized below:

Mandate Letter Direction	Ministry's Action
1. Balance Ministry budget in order to control spending and ensure an overall balanced budget.	The Ministry of Environment's budget was balanced for the 2015/16 budget year.
2. Implement the *Water Sustainability Act* that passed by the Legislature and complete final consultations on water rates.	The *Water Sustainability Act* came into force on February 29, 2016. The second phase to develop the next suite of supporting regulations has commenced. In July 2015, government committed to reviewing water bottling rates; that review is currently underway.
3. Work with the Ministry of Natural Gas Development to develop criteria and standards for emissions for LNG projects in BC.	BC's new *Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act* came into force on Jan. 1, 2016, ensuring LNG facilities in BC have an emissions cap making them the cleanest in the world.
4. Complete the land-based heavy oil spill response studies in order to assist with our five conditions for supporting heavy oil pipelines in BC.	The land-based heavy oil spill response studies were completed in 2014. In 2015/16, the Ministry prepared amendments to the *Emergency Management Act* to move the Province closer to a legal foundation for a world-leading spill preparedness and response system in BC.
5. Participate in the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion environmental review.	Through the National Energy Board led review, the Province prepared and submitted three rounds of information requests on the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion project. On January 11, 2016 the Province submitted its final written submission to the National Energy Board.
6. Work with the Ministries of Energy and Mines and Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation to potentially develop a provincially designated protected area in the Klappan.	The Ministry of Environment has completed its involvement in planning for land use protections for the Klappan.
7. Work with the MLA for Peace River South and his provincial roundtable on improving environmental protection and economic development in BC.	The Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy met on three occasions during 2015/16. Topics included: • World-leading spills regime for BC • BC's Climate Leadership Plan • Climate Change in Paris Conference (COP21) • Pan Canadian Framework and the Role of BC

8. Work with the Ministry of Forests, Land and Natural Resource Operations to review and make recommendations on BC's caribou protection and recovery strategies.	Renewal of Boreal Caribou Implementation plan is ongoing. First Nations and stakeholder engagement began during 2015/16. The Ministry is continuing to implement its provincial management plan for mountain caribou. The Ministry is working with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to renew the Peace Northern Caribou Plan and improve alignment with the Federal Recovery Strategy.
9. Work with the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training to deliver on our Growing Green Jobs plan to ensure resource sector growth spurs green technology innovation.	The Ministry provided input for the *BC Jobs Plan Technology and Green Economy Sector Update* in alignment with the *Growing Green Jobs Update 2014*. BC's legislation for the cleanest LNG operations in the world includes flexible options, offsets and a technology fund to generate green innovation and growth.
10. Work with stakeholders to ensure a successful transition from a taxpayer-funded recycling system to an industry-funded recycling regime.	The Packaging and Printed Paper Program has been implemented and is the Ministry's largest industry-funded recycling program to date. The Ministry continues to work with industry to bring all producers into compliance with the program.